

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. In a wireless communication system having mobile subscriber units
2 and a plurality of fixed network devices located at cell sites, a method for acquiring and
3 managing a plurality of communication modes at each subscriber unit comprising:
4 first sensing whether the subscriber unit is static or mobile from the nature and
5 quality of the communication links with nearby network devices; thereafter
6 enabling an acquisition protocol suited to static mode and mobile mode for
7 said subscriber unit; and
8 enabling an acquisition protocol suited to mobile mode for mobile subscriber
9 units and static mode for fixed subscriber units.

- 1 2. The method according to claim 1 further comprising:
2 initiating procedures to change acquisition mode from static mode to mobile
mode upon failure of the subscriber unit to sense a preselected number of consecutive
scheduled polling packets sent by a linked device.

- 1 3. The method according to claim 1 further comprising:
2 initiating procedures to determine whether it is appropriate to change
acquisition mode from static mode to mobile mode upon failure to transmit a preselected
number of consecutive data packets 

- 1 4. The method according to claim 3 further comprising:
2 upon decision to change to mobile mode, foregoing best node qualification.

- 1 5. The method according to claim 3 further comprising:
2 upon decision to change to mobile mode, foregoing registration of location
3 with a name service.

- 1 6. The method according to claim 3 further comprising:
2 upon decision to change to mobile mode, transmitting sync packets at a higher
3 repetitiveness.

- 1 7. The method according to claim 1 further comprising:
2 upon decision to change to mobile mode, foregoing third party query
3 processes.

1 8. The method according to claim 3, further comprising:
2 upon decision to change to mobile mode, foregoing best node qualification;
3 foregoing registration of location with a name service;
4 foregoing third party query processes; and
5 transmitting sync packets at a higher repetitivity.

1 9. The method according to claim 1, further comprising:
2 upon a subscriber unit changing its BMC, causing said subscriber unit to send
3 forwarding packets to its former bestnode, and
4 updating a new corresponding path to a gateway resource.